

REMARKS

Pending claim 1 stands rejected in a first office action after the RCE filed July 28, 2004. The Examiner notes in the October 4, 2004 office action that the amendment submitted with the RCE has been entered.

In the October 4, 2004 office action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 as obvious over Lin (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,582) in view of Takagi (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,438) pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants have amended claim 1 and submit that it is now ready for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a classification result re - instruction editing means for manually re - classifying the result of classification of the defective areas obtained by said classification means, if the result of classification obtained by the detected defect classification means on the basis of the known knowledge base is wrong or the detected data can not be automatically classified by the detected defect classification means." Applicants respectfully submit that neither Lin nor Takagi suggest or teach a classification result re-instruction editing means as recited in claim 1.

In the October 4 Office Action, the Examiner notes that Lin discloses "a classification result re-instructing means for manually re-classifying the result of the classification of the defective areas obtained by the classification means" citing to col. 30, lines 15-26. The cited passage does not teach a classification result re-instruction editing means as recited in now amended claim 1. In addition, Takagi teaches to display the plurality of defective areas. Takagi, col. 4, Fig. 5. But, Takagi does not teach "a classification result re-instruction editing means" as recited in now amended claim 1.

Applicants submit that the present amendments now place Claim 1 in condition for allowance. No new matter is being added. The amendments are fully supported in the written description on at least page 12 and in Figure 4.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if a telephone conference would help in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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